UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1777
2 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossein LOTFI HORMOZABADI
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

PITCAIRN

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee considered the Territory of Pitcairn at its 640th, 641st and 655th meetings, on 16 and 23 April and 30 June 1992.

2. During its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Territory (A/AC.109/1098).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a thorough review of the political, economic and social conditions in the Territory in the light of the information contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, as well as information furnished by a petitioner who appeared before the Subcommittee.

4. The Subcommittee noted with regret that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in its deliberations. In this connection, the Subcommittee once again appeals to the United Kingdom to reconsider its position and to resume its participation in the work of the Special Committee.

B. Adoption of the report

5. Having carefully examined the situation in Pitcairn, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus a draft decision on the Territory at its 655th meeting, on 30 June 1992, for consideration by the Special Committee (see para. 7).

6. The Subcommittee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

C. Draft decision

7. The Subcommittee submits the following draft decision concerning Pitcairn for adoption by the Special Committee:

> "The Special Committee, having examined the situation in Pitcairn, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which fully applies to the Territory. The Committee further reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory. The Committee urges the administering Power to continue to respect the very individual lifestyle that the people of the Territory have chosen and to preserve, promote and protect it. The Committee decides to continue to examine the question of Pitcairn at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

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Rapporteur: Mr. Hossein LOTFI HORMOZABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

ST. HELENA

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee considered the Territory of St. Helena at its 645th, 646th and 655th meetings, on 12 and 19 May and 30 June 1992.

2. During its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Territory (A/AC.109/1105).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a thorough review of the political, economic and social conditions in the Territory in the light of the information contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat.

4. The Subcommittee noted with regret that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in its deliberations. In this connection, and in view of the efforts deployed by the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work, the Subcommittee once again appeals to the United Kingdom to reconsider its position and to resume its participation in the work of the Special Committee.

B. Adoption of the report

5. Having carefully examined the situation in St. Helena, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus a draft decision on the Territory at its 655th meeting, on 30 June 1992, for consideration by the Special Committee (see para. 8).

6. The Subcommittee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

7. The representatives of Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria expressed the reservations of their delegations concerning the report.

C. Draft decision

8. The Subcommittee submits the following draft decision concerning St. Helena for adoption by the Special Committee:

"The Special Committee, having examined the question of St. Helena, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Committee urges the administering Power, in consultation with the Legislative Council and other representatives of the people of St. Helena, to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territory and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of promoting an awareness among the people of St. Helena of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination. The Committee reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to continue, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy, to encourage local initiative and enterprise and to increase its assistance to diversification programmes with the aim of improving the general welfare of the community, including the employment situation in the Territory. The Committee urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources. The Committee reaffirms that continued development assistance from the administering Power, together with any assistance that the international community might be able to provide, constitutes an important means of developing the economic potential of the Territory and of enhancing the capacity of its people to realize fully the goals set forth in the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee, in that connection, welcomes the assistance rendered by the United Nations Development Programme and invites other organizations of the United Nations system to assist in the development of the Territory. The

continued presence of military facilities in the Territory prompts the Committee, on the basis of previous United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning military bases and installations in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, to urge the administering Power to take measures to avoid the involvement of the Territory in offensive acts or interference against neighbouring States. The Committee considers that the possibility of dispatching a United Nations visiting mission to St. Helena at an appropriate time should be kept under review, and decides to continue to examine the question of St. Helena at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

UNITED NATIONS

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8 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossein LOTFI HORMOZABADI
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

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I. CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TERRITORIES OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

1. The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands at its 640th to 655th meetings, between 16 April and 30 June 1992.

2. During its consideration of these items, the Subcommittee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat on these Territories (A/AC.109/1097, 1099, 1100-1103, 1106, 1108-1109, 1111-1113).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a thorough review of the political, economic and social conditions in each of these Territories in the light of the information contained in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat and in the statement of the representative of an administering Power (New Zealand) and a territorial Government (United States Virgin Islands), who participated in the discussions, as well as information furnished by petitioners who appeared before the Subcommittee.

4. In the course of its review, the Subcommittee considered, in particular, such issues as the following:

(a) The quality and timeliness of the information contained in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the above Territories;

(b) The obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to provide timely and up-to-date information on the Territories under their administration;

(c) The need to dispatch United Nations visiting missions to the Territories as a means of obtaining first-hand information on these Territories;

(d) The constitutional situation particularly in the Territories where a constitutional review is under way or planned;

(e) Residency requirements in some Territories for voting in referendums for self-determination;

(f) Measures to be taken to increase the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee;

(g) Progress achieved in the field of political education;

(h) The position of the local political parties on the question of self-determination and independence;

(i) The membership and participation of the Territories in regional and international organizations;

(j) The question of military installations in some of these Territories and the impact, if any, that a withdrawal of such military installations may have on their economies;

(k) The percentage of expatriates in the local civil service and the need to intensify the training of local personnel in order to increase their participation in the decision-making process;

(l) The heavy dependency of the majority of the Territories on tourist and international finance industries and the need to diversify the economies of these Territories;

(m) Land ownership by foreigners and the related question of access to beaches by the local populations;

(n) The preservation of the environment and the protection of the surrounding areas of the Territories against ecological degradation and natural disasters;

(o) Illegal activities including drug trafficking and money laundering by some interest groups in some of the Territories and efforts by the territorial Governments, assisted by the administering Powers, as well as by regional and international organizations, to eliminate those activities;

(p) The granting of fishing licences and the related question of illegal fishing in the territorial waters of some of the Territories; and

(q) The response of the international community to the urgent needs of the Territories struck by hurricanes.

5. The representative of New Zealand, as an administering Power, participated in the discussions of the Subcommittee during its consideration of Tokelau. A representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands and a petitioner from the United States Virgin Islands and one from Guam also participated in the discussions. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation for that participation and for the additional information provided by the administering Power concerned, the representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands and the petitioners.

6. The Subcommittee noted with regret that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers for the majority of the above Territories, did not participate in its deliberations. In this connection, and in view of the efforts deployed by the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its

work, the Subcommittee once again appeals to the United Kingdom and the United States to reconsider their position and to resume their participation in the work of the Special Committee.

II. ADOPTION OF PARTS A AND B OF THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION ON AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

7. In accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group set up by the Special Committee in 1991 to review the Committee's approach and method of work, which recommendations were adopted by the Special Committee at its 1380th meeting, on 24 May 1991 (A/AC.109/L.1756), the Subcommittee decided to consolidate the decolonization principles that apply to all the above Territories in a single resolution, to be followed by resolutions on the specific conditions prevailing in each of the Territories.

8. In view of the above, the Subcommittee, at its 655th meeting, on 30 June 1992, adopted by consensus parts A and B of the draft consolidated resolution for consideration by the Special Committee.

A. Consolidated draft resolution on American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

GENERAL

The Special Committee,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands,

Having examined the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, those resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the individual territories covered by the present resolution,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles which should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of those Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide a means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to those Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

Bearing in mind the fragile economy of the small Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and recalling General Assembly resolutions and the recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York from 25 to 29 June 1990, 1/

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations regional seminars held in 1990 in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as the position taken by the territorial Governments contained in the reports of the seminars, 2/

1. Approves the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands;

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of those Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

1/ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4.

2/ A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1 and A/AC.109/1043.

3. Also reaffirms that it is ultimately for the people of those Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, in that connection, calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination, in conformity with the legitimate political status options clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV);

4. Reiterates that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in the Territories as will enable their people to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

5. Reiterates the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way serve as a pretext to delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination;

6. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of those Territories, and recommends that priority should continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. Urges the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments concerned, to take or continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of those Territories to own, develop or dispose of the natural resources of those Territories, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources;

8. Also urges the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

9. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to counter problems related to drug trafficking;

10. Urges the administering Powers to foster or continue to foster close relations between the Territories and other island communities in their respective regions, and to promote cooperation between the respective territorial Governments and regional institutions, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

11. Also urges the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in its work by providing timely and up-to-date information for each Territory under their administration, in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, and by facilitating the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information thereon and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants;

12. Appeals to the administering Powers to continue or to resume their participation in future meetings and activities of the Special Committee and to ensure the participation in the work of the Special Committee of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to achieve the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the action of the Special Committee towards the attainment of that objective;

14. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of those Territories;

15. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in formulating their assistance programmes, to take due account of the text entitled "Challenges and opportunities: a strategic framework", which was adopted unanimously by the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations; 1/

16. Decides to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

B. Draft resolutions on specific conditions prevailing in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

1. American Samoa

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Taking note of the establishment of a new Political Status and Constitutional Review Commission by the Fono, the legislature of the Territory,

Noting the need for diversifying and developing the economy of the Territory through the expansion of the existing small and service-oriented industries as well as through the development of commercial fishing and the tourism industry,

Noting also the devastation caused by hurricane Val in December 1991 and the recovery efforts of the territorial Government in conjunction with the administering Power and the international community,

Recalling the dispatch in 1981 of a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory,

1. Welcomes the establishment of a new Political Status and Constitutional Review Commission in September 1991 by the Fono;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to promote the economic and social development of the Territory, in order to reduce its heavy economic and financial dependence on the United States of America and to take measures to create more employment opportunities for the people of the Territory;

3. Urges the administering Power to support measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting the diversification of the economy and the development of the existing industries, particularly commercial fishing and tourism;

4. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to provide the Territory with the necessary assistance, through a number of its agencies, to reconstruct many of the public facilities and thousands of family dwellings destroyed or heavily damaged by hurricane Val;

5. Invites Member States, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and organizations of the United Nations system to grant or to continue to grant American Samoa emergency economic assistance to alleviate the devastation caused by hurricane Val and to enable the territorial Government to meet its reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements;

6. Notes with regret that a period of eleven years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

2. Anguilla

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Aware of the desire of the people of Anguilla for a higher level of self-government,

Taking note of the statement by the administering Power that it would help the people of Anguilla to become independent when and if that was their constitutionally expressed wish,

Noting the reaction of the political leaders to the abolishment of the death penalty by the administering Power and the statement of the Chief Minister on this question,

Taking note of the admission of the Territory as observer in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States in 1991,

Noting that the unemployment rate in the Territory fell from 27 per cent in 1984 to 1.1 per cent in 1989, that salaries and allowances in the public sector have risen substantially since 1984, and that the number of posts has increased by 34 per cent since 1985,

Aware of the inability of Anguilla's educational system to alleviate the problem of scarcity of skilled national personnel, particularly in the fields of economic management and tourism, and that educational reform is of paramount importance to the achievement of the long-term economic goals of the Territory,

Further noting that the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme for 1991-1995, estimated at $35 million, is expected to be financed by external donors through grants and concessional loans,

Taking into account the main development objectives established by the Territory's Executive Council, namely, the improved management of the economy through a more efficient public sector, the strategic development of human resources through the reform of the educational and training systems, and the development of integrated policies of physical infrastructural improvements as well as the preservation of the natural environment,

Recognizing the contribution of the marine resources of Anguilla to its local economy,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory in 1984,

1. Takes note of the statement of the Chief Minister that the Government of Anguilla has no intention or moving towards independence during its current term of office;

2. Notes with concern that the administering Power continues to deny further delegation of competence over the special areas of responsibility of the Governor to ministers of the territorial Government prior to setting a time-frame for independence;

3. Calls upon the administering Power to consult with, and take into account the wishes of, the Government and the people of Anguilla prior to taking any decision likely to impact on their livelihood;

4. Welcomes the admission of the Territory as observer in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and requests the administering Power to facilitate the Territory's participation in other regional and/or international organizations;

5. Commends the territorial Government for the virtual full employment situation prevailing in the Territory, and for the increases in the salaries and number of posts in the public sector over the past years;

6. Notes with concern the incapacity of Anguilla's educational system to supply the Territory's labour market with skilled managers, particularly in the areas of economic management and tourism;

7. Calls upon the administering Power as well as other Member States and international organizations to afford or continue to afford the Government of Anguilla training possibilities for its staff in this respect;

8. Invites the international donor community to contribute generously to the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme for 1991-1995, and to grant the Territory all possible assistance to enable it to reach the main development objectives established by the Executive Council of the Territory;

9. Welcomes the measures taken by the territorial Government to protect and conserve marine resources and to control the activities of foreign fishermen operating illegally in the area;

10. Calls upon the administering Power to provide the Territory with the necessary assistance to mitigate the adverse effects of hurricane Hugo and to facilitate the provision of additional assistance and funds from international organizations and specialized agencies to the Territory;

11. Notes that a period of eight years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a further visting mission to Anguilla.

3. Bermuda

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting with satisfaction the programme of Economic Stability and Responsible Management undertaken by the Government and the steps taken to offset a decline in revenue from tourism,

Noting a marked increase in unemployment in the Territory,

Noting with concern an increase in the illegal drug trade in the Territory,

Reaffirming its strong conviction that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory could, in certain circumstances, constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that a United Nations visiting mission has never been to the Territory,

1. Expresses the view that it is ultimately for the people of Bermuda to decide their own future;

2. Requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the implementation of its programme of Economic Stability and Responsible Management, with a view to reducing the impact of the recession on the economy of the Territory and the unprecedented increase in unemployment;

3. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to counter problems related to drug trafficking;

4. Also calls upon the administering Power to ensure that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory would not constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples nor hinder the population of the Territory from exercising its right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

5. Further calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory.

4. British Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the participation of the Territory in its capacity as an associate member in some regional and international organizations,

Noting also the application of the Territory for membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Taking into account that, according to the annual report of the Caribbean Development Bank for 1990, there has been sustained growth in the economy of the Territory, and noting the measures taken by the territorial Government to develop the agricultural and industrial sectors,

Noting that the Territory might graduate to net-contributor status in the fifth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme, thereby requiring the Territory to contribute to the financing of its projects,

Noting also that the Caribbean Development Bank has reported that the scarcity of skilled manpower was the single most important constraint to the realization of the full development potential of the economy of the Territory,

Noting further that the United Nations Children's Fund is considering the continuation beyond 1992 of its five-year Multi-island Programme, which has funded educational projects in the British Virgin Islands,

Recognizing the measures being taken by the territorial Government to prevent drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Welcomes the admission of the British Virgin Islands as an associate member of the Caribbean Community;

2. Reiterates its call upon the administering Power to facilitate the admission of the Territory to associate membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as its participation in other regional and international organizations;

3. Calls upon the administering Power to provide the Territory with the necessary assistance to mitigate the adverse effects of hurricane Hugo and to facilitate the provision of additional assistance and funds to the Territory from international organizations and specialized agencies;

4. Welcomes the efforts by the territorial Government to raise the quality of the labour force and to meet the trained labour requirements of the public service through its development plan for education;

5. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to continue its technical assistance to the British Virgin Islands, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external economic factors and its scarcity of skilled workers;

6. Expresses its satisfaction at the consideration being given by the United Nations Children's Fund to continuation of its five-year Multi-island Programme aimed at improving education, health and social services in the Territory;

7. Urges the regional and international financial institutions, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of the British Virgin Islands in identifying its medium- and long-term needs and to increase their participation in the full recovery of the Territory;

8. Notes with satisfaction the measures being taken by the territorial Government to prevent drug trafficking and money laundering, and urges the administering Power to continue its assistance to the Territory in those endeavours;

9. Notes with regret that a period of sixteen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and appeals to the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

5. Cayman Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Taking note of the completion of the constitutional review exercise in the Cayman Islands, as well as of the established timetable for the bringing into force of the amended Constitution,

Aware that the general election in the Territory is scheduled for November 1992,

Noting the measures being taken by the territorial Government to promote agricultural production with a view to reducing the heavy dependence of the Territory on imported provisions,

Expressing its concern that property and land continue to be owned and developed largely by foreign investors,

Noting that an increased proportion of the labour force of the Territory consists of expatriates and that there is a need for the training of nationals in the technical, vocational, managerial and professional fields,

Noting also the action taken by the territorial Government to implement its programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting further the policy of the territorial Government to control the growth and to upgrade the efficiency of the public service,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the territorial Government, the Governments of other countries of the region and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to prevent and repress illicit activities such as money laundering, funds smuggling, false invoicing and other related frauds, as well as the use of and trafficking in illegal drugs,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power to expedite the bringing into force of the amended Constitution, in close cooperation with the territorial Government and in conformity with the wishes and aspirations of the Caymanian population, with a view to enabling the people of the Cayman Islands to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the general election in the Territory is scheduled for November 1992 and requests the administering Power, in close cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the efforts aimed at ensuring that a free and fair general election is conducted in the Cayman Islands;

3. Calls upon the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to promote the agricultural development of the Cayman Islands with a view to reducing the dependence of the Territory on imported food supplies;

4. Urges the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

5. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to provide necessary assistance in enhancing the efficiency of the public service;

6. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to counter problems related to money laundering, funds smuggling and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

7. Notes with regret that a period of fifteen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory, and appeals to the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

6. Guam

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting that the second round of negotiations between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guam aimed at transferring land and facilities at the Naval Air Station, Agana, opened in July 1991,

Aware that large tracts of land in the Territory continue to be reserved for the use of the Department of Defense of the administering Power,

Noting that the administering Power has undertaken a programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Also noting the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture,

Mindful of discussions between the Guam Commission on Self-Determination and the executive branch of the administering Power on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act, which was recently concluded and will lead to consideration of the measure by the legislative branch of the administering Power,

Recalling that in referendums held in Guam in 1987, a draft Commonwealth Act was endorsed by the people of Guam that, upon expeditious enactment by the Congress of the United States of America, would reaffirm the right of the people of Guam to draft their own constitution and to govern themselves,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory in 1979,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to ensure that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory does not constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples nor hinder the population of the Territory from exercising its right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Also calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to expedite the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

3. Notes that discussions held since 1990 between the Government of the United States of America and the Guam Commission on Self-Determination have resulted in qualified agreements on the provisions of the Guam Commonwealth Act, including agreements to disagree on several substantive portions of the Guam proposal, which are to be forwarded to the Congress of the United States for consideration;

4. Urges the administering Power to support measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture;

5. Reiterates its request to the administering Power that the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people, the indigenous inhabitants of Guam, be recognized and respected;

6. Notes that a period of thirteen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory.

7. Montserrat

The Special Committee,

Referring to part A above,

Recalling the devastation caused by hurricane Hugo in September 1989 and the recovery efforts of the territorial Government, in conjunction with the administering Power and the international community,

Taking into account the membership of Montserrat in regional and international bodies and the outstanding request of the Territory for readmission to associate membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting the general elections held in Montserrat on 8 October 1991 and the election of a new Chief Minister,

Noting that it is the policy of the territorial Government, while considering that independence is inevitable, to pursue a gradual approach to preparing the people of Montserrat for independence,

Noting also that, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the economy of the Territory had continued its recovery,

Taking note of the statement of the Chief Minister at the Fifteenth Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean in December 1991 that the offshore financial services industry required little or no natural resources and could make a substantial contribution to small island countries,

Noting the policy of the territorial Government to replace expatriates with suitably trained and qualified nationals,

Noting also that planned developments in the Territory aimed at enhancing the island's attractiveness as a tourist destination may impact negatively on the environment, in the absence of effective natural resource management,

Recalling that the last United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory took place in 1982,

1. Urges the administering Power to continue to intensify and expand its programme of aid in order to accelerate the development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Territory;

2. Reiterates its call upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to take the necessary steps as a matter of urgency to facilitate the readmission of Montserrat as an associate member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

3. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other multilateral financial institutions, to continue to expand their assistance to the Territory in the strengthening, development and diversification of the economy of Montserrat in its medium- and long-term development plans, as well as in alleviating the devastation caused by hurricane Hugo;

4. Requests the administering Power to continue to facilitate the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and multilateral financial institutions, to the Government of Montserrat;

5. Calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to assist the Territory in its efforts to implement an ecotourism strategy aimed at developing its natural resources in a manner consistent with environmental considerations;

6. Notes with satisfaction the measures being taken by the territorial Government, in cooperation with the administering Power, to restore the Territory's offshore financial services industry;

7. Urges the administering Power to continue its assistance to the Territory in the prevention of drug trafficking and money laundering;

8. Urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to provide the necessary assistance for the training of local personnel in the skills essential to the development of the Territory and to encourage skilled workers to remain in the Territory;

9. Notes with regret that a period of ten years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a visiting mission to Montserrat.

8. Tokelau

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Having heard the statement of the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power,

Noting the continuing devolution of power to the local authority, the General Fono (Council), and mindful that the cultural heritage and traditions of the people of Tokelau should be taken fully into account in the evolution of the political institutions of Tokelau,

Noting also the endeavours of Tokelau to develop its marine and other resources and its efforts to diversify the income-earning ability of its population,

Noting further the concern of the people of the Territory regarding the serious consequences of changes in climatic patterns on the future of Tokelau,

Welcoming the information that Tokelau, while wishing to preserve the benefits of its current relationship with New Zealand, is exploring ways of achieving greater political and administrative autonomy,

Noting with appreciation the assistance extended to Tokelau by the administering Power, other Member States and international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and its preparation of a third country programme for Tokelau for the period 1992-1996,

1. Encourages the Government of New Zealand, the administering Power, to continue to respect fully the wishes of the people of Tokelau in carrying out the political and economic development of the Territory in such a way as to preserve their social, cultural and traditional heritage;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, in consultation with the General Fono (Council), to continue to expand its development assistance to Tokelau in order to promote the economic and social development of the Territory;

3. Notes that the plan to transfer the Office for Tokelau Affairs from Apia to Tokelau is being pursued within the context of the exploration of ways of achieving greater political and administrative autonomy, and invites the administering Power to continue to provide maximum assistance in this regard;

4. Invites all governmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, Member States and organizations of the United Nations system to grant or to continue to grant Tokelau special emergency economic assistance to mitigate the effects of cyclonic storms and to enable the Territory to meet its medium- and long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements and to address the issues of changes in climatic patterns.

9. Turks and Caicos Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the territorial Government's plan to reform the public service to enhance its efficiency,

Noting the administrative steps taken by the territorial Government to implement its policy of localization of employment,

Noting also the Government's expressed need for $11.5 million per year in development assistance to achieve its stated goal of economic independence by the year 1996,

Noting the Government's efforts to set up a Turks and Caicos development corporation,

Noting further that the agricultural sector is small and limited to subsistence farming for the local market, and that 90 per cent of the food consumed in the Territory is imported,

Concerned at the continued decline of fisheries and marine production in relative terms in the past year,

Taking note of the Chief Minister's attendance at the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Basseterre, Saint Kitts, in July 1991,

1. Calls upon the territorial Government to promote alternative employment opportunities for those civil servants whose employment will have been terminated as a result of the public service reform and the planned reduction of employees in the service;

2. Also calls upon the Government to ensure that the employment of expatriates in the Territory's labour force is not prejudicial to the recruitment of suitably qualified and available islanders;

3. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other institutions of the United Nations system to explore concrete ways of assisting the Turks and Caicos Government to reach its stated goal of achieving economic independence by 1996;

4. Urges the administering Power to study favourably, in cooperation with the territorial Government, the needs of the Territory in this respect with a view to meeting those needs;

5. Invites international financial institutions and donor organizations, including the European Investment Bank and the Commonwealth Development Corporation, to provide the Territory with the necessary assistance for the setting up and/or operation of the Turks and Caicos Development Corporation;

6. Urges the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to assist the territorial Government in increasing the efficiency of the agricultural and fisheries sectors;

7. Also urges the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the problem of environmental pollution and degradation;

8. Takes note of the admission of the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of the Caribbean Community and invites other regional and international organizations to consider granting the Territory a similar status should the territorial Government so request;

9. Notes with regret that a period of twelve years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and appeals to the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

10. United States Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands,

Noting that legislation has been approved in the Virgin Islands Senate and signed into law by the Governor of the Territory to conduct a referendum on political status in 1993,

Noting also that the extension to ninety days of the residency requirement for voting has not addressed the concerns of the representatives of the territorial Government and those of the Commission on Status and Federal Relations regarding eligibility to participate in a referendum on self-determination,

Noting further that legislation has been proposed in the United States Congress to transfer Water Island to the Territory at the end of 1992, and that the issue remains under consideration,

Noting the position of the judicial authorities of the United States of America regarding the issue of the West Indian Company's title and rights to the reclamation and development of the submerged land at Long Bay in the Charlotte Amalie Harbor,

Noting the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community, and its inability for financial reasons to participate in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization,

Noting the expressed concerns of the Government and people of the Territory over the continued vacancies of both District Court judgeships and their wish for the appointment of Virgin Islanders to these and other top posts in the judicial system,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations Visiting Mission to the Territory and the outstanding request by the territorial Government for a United Nations mission to the Territory to observe the referendum process,

1. Requests the administering Power to provide the fullest cooperation and assistance to the territorial Government and the Commission on Status and

Federal Relations in their review of the residency requirement for those eligible to participate in a genuine exercise of the right to self-determination in the United States Virgin Islands;

2. Invites the administering Power, as a matter of urgency, to facilitate the transfer of Water Island to the Territory at the end of 1992;

3. Reiterates, as a matter of urgency, its requests to the administering Power to assist the Government of the United States Virgin Islands in securing the financial means to acquire the reclaimed and submerged land at Long Bay in the Charlotte Amalie Harbor from the West Indies Company in order to inhibit further development-related damage to marine and coastal wildlife;

4. Appeals to the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to appoint qualified Virgin Islanders to the vacant district court judgeships in the Territory at the earliest possible time;

5. Reiterates its request to the administering Power to facilitate as appropriate the participation of the Territory in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community, as well as in various international and regional organizations, including the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development of the World Bank, in accordance with the terms of reference of such organizations; and to provide financial assistance as necessary;

6. Calls upon the administering Power to respond favourably to the request of the territorial Government for the dispatch of a United Nations visiting and observer mission to the Territory.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossein LOTFI HORMOZABADI
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with its organization of work for 1992 (A/AC.109/L.1775), adopted at its 639th meeting, on 14 April 1992, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 646th, 652nd and 655th meetings, on 19 May and 9 and 30 June 1992, respectively.

2. In its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

3. At its 646th meeting, the Subcommittee heard a petitioner, Mr. J. A. González-González, a journalist based at United Nations Headquarters, who spoke of his experience in the dissemination of information on decolonization.

I. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

4. In his statement, the representative of the Department of Public Information said that the Department's activities, which included press coverage, publications, radio, photographs, television/videos, films, special services provided to the media, the work of the information centres, public inquiries and relations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), covered all aspects of decolonization and related issues, including the questions of Western Sahara, Puerto Rico, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. Media coverage was provided for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000), emphasizing the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

5. As part of its regular coverage of United Nations activities, the News Coverage Service of the Department of Public Information continued to report on the work of the various United Nations bodies concerned with decolonization. In 1991, the Department issued a total of 90 press releases, both in English and French, relating to the work of the Fourth Committee (Questions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories) of the General Assembly, the Special Committee on decolonization and its former Subcommittee on Small Territories and the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance. The press releases also covered the various seminars and symposia dealing with decolonization issues, and reproduced statements on subjects related to decolonization made by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Special Committee. The information contained in the releases was used not only by the international media, but also by NGOs, educational institutions, Governments and various organizations of the United Nations system. Within the Department, press releases were used

for the preparation of the Un Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations, pamphlets and other publications, daily briefings for journalists and radio news summaries. The United Nations information centres distributed press releases on decolonization to a world-wide audience. The Department also sent cables based on the releases to the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies. Specific titles of some of the press releases were: "Fourth Committee Chairman says focus will be on Caribbean, Pacific Territories"; "Representative of United States Virgin Islands urges Fourth Committee to allow Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in its work"; "Decolonization Committee continues hearing petitioners on question of Puerto Rico"; "Petitioners in Decolonization Committee focus attention on proposed plebiscite in Puerto Rico"; "Argentina, United Kingdom urged to resolve Falkland/Malvinas issue in resolution adopted by Special Committee on decolonization"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories hears petitioners on situation in Guam"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories takes up situation in Bermuda"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories begins discussion of situation in United States Virgin Islands"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories takes up question of Tokelau"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories takes up American Samoa"; "Subcommittee on Small Territories takes up question of Anguilla, Pitcairn, Cayman Islands"; and "Subcommittee on Small Territories takes up question of Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands".

6. The Department's Radio Section provided extensive coverage of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. A total of 104 radio news magazines featured programmes on decolonization in 18 languages, including the 6 official languages of the United Nations. These programmes, aimed at enlightening the people of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories about their right to self-determination, included the following: "Caribbean Echo"; "Caribbean News Round-up"; "UN Caribbean Magazine"; "Nieuwe Connecties"; "Nouveaux contacts"; "Al-Majallatu Al-Natika"; "L'Afrique à l'ONU"; "Perspective"; "Bonjour l'Afrique"; "Mwangaza wa Umoja wa Mataifa"; "One South Africa"; "N.U. em Aççao"; "Fokus Fokus Kita"; "Perspectiva Internacional"; "Bain Ul Aqwami Manzarnama"; "Huayu Zhuanti Jiemu"; "Antar Rashtriye Patrika"; "UN News Magazine"; "Chinese News"; "Afakon Alamiya"; "UN Newsbrief"; "UN In Action"; "UN Calling Asia"; "Puntos Cardinales"; "UN News" and "Naciones Unidas en Acción". The topics dealt with, inter alia, the participation of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of a working group of the United Nations Committee on decolonization; the importance of the United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the seven in the Caribbean; complete decolonization by the year 2000; Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights; a review of the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Non-Self-Governing Territories; Virgin Islands decolonization; issues related to Puerto Rico and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas); Trusteeship Council debates on the situation in Palau; and situation of Palau in the Pacific region.

7. During the period under review, decolonization was featured in publications of the Department of Public Information. The UN Chronicle, a quarterly magazine published in the six official languages of the United Nations, carried the following articles: "Decolonization: a historic anniversary" and "Western Sahara solution appears within reach" (June 1991 issue); "Report delay for UN referendum in Western Sahara" and "The right to self-determination: a speedy exercise" (March 1992 issue). Objective: Justice -- Special Issue on Decolonization, vol. XXII, No. 2, December 1990 (DPI/1108) was distributed widely. Decolonization: The Task Ahead -- Profiles of 18 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories (DPI/1109), published in 1991, was given world-wide distribution. The 1991 issue of the Yearbook of the United Nations, which is currently being produced, devotes one chapter to each of the questions relating to decolonization and to the International Trusteeship System.

8. Activities on decolonization were televised and widely disseminated and made available to networks and television stations and through packages of video highlights provided to international news syndicators. An 18-minute educational video about decolonization, accompanied by a booklet, was produced in English for the series entitled "About the United Nations". The programme, for use in secondary school social studies and history courses, examines the role of the United Nations in developing the principle and practice of "self-determination" in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The question of Western Sahara was also publicized. The Department of Public Information continued to prepare and distribute television news packages to subscribers and syndicators world wide on subjects such as the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Puerto Rico.

9. The Audio and Visual Materials Library Unit made tapes and cassettes available to correspondents, United Nations radio producers and delegates. It also provided United Nations and outside producers with video archival material on decolonization issues in general and on Western Sahara in particular.

10. During 1991, the various units of the Department's Dissemination Division continued to provide services for the promotion, dissemination and distribution of United Nations information products dealing with the decolonization issue in general, and in particular, with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Western Sahara, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and apartheid. The Department responded to public inquiries and requests for information by distributing, as handouts or through the mail, publications, pamphlets, booklets and brochures. In 1991, displays in the Public Lobby and along the route of the guided tours included an exhibit on decolonization.

11. During the period under review, activities on decolonization carried out by the Institutional Relations and NGO Section included the screening of United Nations films and videos immediately preceding the weekly briefings for representatives of NGOs. "Namibia: Independence" and "Teaching about decolonization" were shown before an audience of 200 and 170, respectively.

The Section mailed the following information materials to each chief executive officer of the more than 1,200 NGOs associated with the Department: briefing on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and copies of Objective: Justice - Special Issue on Decolonization and of Decolonization: The Task Ahead - Profiles of 18 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Additional copies of the above publications, as well as of "UN Focus: Let Them Speak" (DPI/1093), a flyer on the rights of indigenous peoples, were featured and distributed at the NGO Resources Centre (the Centre draws approximately 500 users each month).

12. The Executive Media Service, in addition to conducting daily press briefings, disseminated information, on request, on decolonization subjects, such as Western Sahara and East Timor. It distributed posters, pamphlets, press releases and documents to journalists and arranged for special press briefings by the Secretary-General and other senior officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, as well as by delegations.

13. The United Nations information centres and information services continued their task of informing the public world-wide of the activities of the Organization, including those relating to decolonization. They disseminated information provided by Headquarters to local media, NGOs, government agencies, educators and academic institutions on such subjects as the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights and the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The activities of the information centres and information services included distributing radio programmes; preparing posters and publications; mounting exhibits; screening films; holding news briefings; translating and disseminating Headquarters materials, such as background notes, press releases and documents; participating in seminars and lectures; and granting interviews. During the Week of Solidarity (20-24 May 1991), information kits containing the following documents were distributed to the press and to visitors touring the United Nations: Decolonization, a brochure containing information on the Declaration, the work of the Special Committee on decolonization and the role of the United Nations in the decolonization process; Objective: Justice - Special Issue on Decolonization; and Decolonization: The Task Ahead - Profiles of 18 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

14. As in previous years, the Department's information activities in connection with the Week of Solidarity emphasized the continuing struggle of the South African people, as well as those of colonial Territories in Africa and the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific regions. Those activities included the production of a special radio programme on the Week of Solidarity featuring interviews with the representatives of the Congo, Madagascar, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States of America; distribution of a special press release covering the statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization on the Week of Solidarity; distribution of a press kit containing a brochure entitled Decolonization, Objective: Justice - Special Issue on Decolonization, and Decolonization: The Task Ahead -

Profiles of 18 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories; and dissemination by the NGO Resource Centre of the above publications and documents to the non-governmental community during the Week of Solidarity. The Department aimed at providing maximum coverage of decolonization issues.

15. On 23 May 1991, the video entitled "Teaching about decolonization" was shown before an audience of 170. Observance of the Week of Solidarity provided an opportunity for the global network of United Nations information centres and United Nations information services to draw public attention to the rights of peoples in colonial Territories everywhere. Many of the Department's information centres and information services organized their own public information programmes relating to the Week. Public information activities included mounting exhibits; screening films on the struggle for freedom, independence and human rights; publishing news bulletins; producing press kits; addressing briefings; translating and disseminating press material from Headquarters; participating in seminars and lectures; and granting interviews.

II. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

16. In his statement before the Subcommittee, the representative of the Department of Political Affairs indicated that the dissemination of information on decolonization continued to be one of the key activities of the Department.

17. The Department was using all the means at its disposal to disseminate information: publications, radio and television. In 1991, it had endeavoured to implement the recommendations of two regional seminars held in 1990 in Vanuatu and Barbados, whereby the Department had been requested to continue its activities in the field of dissemination of information.

18. The Department had continued to cooperate with the Department of Public Information in updating and disseminating documents relating to decolonization. The Department had participated in preparing the new edition of Objective: Justice, a publication of the Department of Public Information. It had also contributed much to the compilation of Decolonization: The Task Ahead, a monograph on each of the 18 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Department's role was not only to update the above texts, but also to ensure that the information contained in the publications was accurate and precise.

19. The Department had assisted in the preparation of About the United Nations, an illustrated booklet to serve as a guide for students on decolonization issues, and had been actively involved in the production of a number of articles for the UN Chronicle. The Department's cooperation with the Department of Public Information in the dissemination of information on decolonization was a multifaceted activity which included the production of printed publications, as well as audio and video programmes.

20. The Department attached great importance to its cooperation with regional organizations involved in disseminating information on decolonization. Those organizations played a significant role in that field.

21. The representative said that the Department was currently involved in preparations for a regional seminar aimed at reviewing the special development needs of island Territories, to be held in Grenada from 17 to 19 June 1992 by the Special Committee on decolonization. That event, in which many representatives of the media had been invited to participate, would provide an excellent opportunity for the further dissemination of information in the Caribbean.

III. WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ALL COLONIAL TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS THOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA, FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS (25-29 MAY 1992)

22. In accordance with its organization of work for 1992, adopted at its 639th meeting, on 14 April 1992, the Subcommittee considered the question of the Week of Solidarity at its 646th and 652nd meetings, on 19 May and 9 June 1992, respectively.

23. In its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee hald consultations with the representative of the Department of Public Information at its 646th meeting, and with the representative of the Department of Political Affairs at its 652nd meeting.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

24. Having concluded its examination of the item, the Subcommittee submits the following conclusions and recommendations for consideration and approval by the Special Committee:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Special Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue to intensify, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all of the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate information on all remaining colonial Territories under the consideration of the Special Committee, including information on military bases or facilities in any of those Territories;

(d) To disseminate more widely, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, decolonization resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(e) To disseminate, or continue to disseminate, information in official languages of the United Nations, particularly in French, which is one of the two working languages of the Organization;

(f) To pursue its cooperation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and to provide it on a regular basis with varied publicity material and information concerning United Nations activities in the field of decolonization;

(g) To continue to disseminate materials prepared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning decolonization;

(h) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(i) To continue to provide information material on decolonization through, inter alia, exhibitions to be shown outside United Nations Headquarters, to all United Nations information centres and to increase assistance to them in all related activities;

(j) To produce new visual material on problems of decolonization in cooperation with the Special Committee;

(k) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on decolonization and, in particular, on the activities undertaken in 1992 in relation to the celebration of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that information bodies provide better coverage of decolonization in all regions.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, to increase its speaking engagements at university campuses on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee of the experience and the results achieved.

(7) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration of the Committee. The Committee requests the two Departments to continue to intensify their cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization, particularly through briefings and the provision of relevant printed materials.

(8) The Special Committee appeals to the mass media to regard it as their task to contribute to the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism by disseminating information on the decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of the colonial countries.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 1/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/63 of 11 December 1991, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

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1/ A/AC.109/1121.

1. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connection, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.